



## NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION

City Hall, Office of the Mayor  
210 Main St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 587-1212

### COMMISSIONERS

Natasha Yakovlev, Chair  
Brian Campedelli  
Helen Kahn

### Executive Assistant

Annie Lesko  
[alesko@northamptonma.gov](mailto:alesko@northamptonma.gov)

## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Virtual Meeting

4:00 p.m.

The November 3, 2021, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

### Join Virtual Meeting

- Video Conference: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88239062086?pwd=TW1xVXBjdHRhekpHelM1ZGgrTmJIQT09>

OR

- Telephone, call: +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 882 3906 2086, Password: 253816

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 4:02 p.m. by Commissioner Yakovlev  
**ROLL CALL** - Commissioner Yakovlev and Commissioner Kahn were both present  
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING** made by Commissioner Yakovlev

### 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fabio Dallorto was present and stated he lives across the street from JJ's and fears that the pending request for modification of Entertainment License for JJ's Tavern will turn the establishment into an entertainment venue if he is allowed weekly amplified entertainment. Mr. Dallorto noted that amplified music from JJ's was already deemed an issue by the Commission and hopes that the Commission does not grant the amendment because it will infringe on his right to enjoy his own household.

Elisa Foreman was present and stated she lives a block from JJ's and while the Commission is aware of the most recent issues, Ms. Foreman noted that throughout 2000 and 2001 she experienced an inability to enjoy her own house because of the noise. Ms. Foreman noted that she made numerous attempts to work with Jon to turn down the volume but that was unsuccessful. Ms. Foreman concluded that she hopes the Commission will deny the request for amplified entertainment.

The clerk read an email from Roger and Julie Clark... "I am away and just found out Monday night that the License Committee will once again vote on whether to grant a permit to JJ's to have amplified music. I'm busy at 4 with my grandchildren so unable to zoom in. I do not support the request and feel that amplified music is not necessary. All that needs to happen is unplug the amplifier. It is such a small area that your guests will certainly be entertained and the neighborhood will be very grateful! Thank you! Julie and Roger Clark"

### 3. **APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE**

Transfer From: Belly of the Beast, Inc.

Transfer To: Wine Witch, LLC

David Greeman, part-owner, was present for this application and noted that he will be operating a restaurant using the same layout as Belly of the Beast. Lunch and dinner will be served, with table service.

**Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the transfer of Common Victualler license to Wine Witch, LLC. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE AND CHANGE OF LOCATION ON AN ANNUAL ALL ALCOHOL RESTAURANT LICENSE**

Transfer from: The Olive Juice Company, Inc. d/b/a Bistro Les Gras, 25 West St.

Transfer to: Highbrow, Inc. d/b/a HighBrow Wood Fired Kitchen + Bar, 12 Crafts Ave.

Proposed Manager: Andrew Brow

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to open the public hearing at 4:11 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the hearing was opened.**

Attorney Brad Shimel was present and stated that Highbrow is looking to expand its offering with a full liquor license. Attorney Shimel noted that everything else will stay the same with the exception of a full bar.

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to close the public hearing at 4:13 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The hearing was closed.**

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the transfer and change of location application for Highbrow, Inc. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**5. (CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, MEETING) PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION OF PREMISES ON AN ANNUAL ALL ALCOHOL RESTAURANT LICENSE**

Notch 8, Inc. d/b/a Union Station, Tunnel Bar, Platform Bar, The Deck

125A Pleasant St.

- Adding 4,180 sq. ft. of outdoor space

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to deny the application for alteration of premises for Notch 8, Inc. because the applicant did not establish control over the proposed premises. Those premises appear to be controlled by the City of Northampton pursuant to existing lease and easement documents. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**6. APPLICATION FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES**

Building 8 Brewing

Location: Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine St.

Type: Wine & Malt

Date/Time: November 6 and November 7, 2021, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Date/Time: November 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

O'Brian Tomalin was present and stated that he will be serving pints and half pints and will be serving in a meeting room within the Florence Congregational Church. O'Brian noted everyone will have their IDs checked.

**Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the short term liquor licenses for Building 8 Brewing for November 6, November 7 and November 18, 2021. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**7. APPLICATION FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES**

Artifact, LLC d/b/a Artifact Cider Project  
Location: Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine St.  
Dates/Times: November 12, 2021, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
November 13, 2021, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
November 14, 2021, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Type: Wine & Malt

Jake Mazar from Artifact and Cassandra Holden from Florence Congregational Church were both present for this application. Cassandra noted that she hopes that beer and cider will be able to be served for the first time. The space has been renovated to host live performances. Most shows will start between 7 and 8 p.m. and conclude about 10 p.m.

Jake Mazar noted that he will have cans of cider to offer and will be checking IDs.

**Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the application for short term liquor licenses for Artifact, LLC on November 12, November 13, and November 14, 2021. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**8. REQUEST TO AMEND PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSE FOR DRAWING BOARD BREWING COMPANY, LLC**

Amendment: Date and time change to November 6, 2021 from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The clerk noted that this license has already been approved. However, the rain caused the event to be postponed so the applicant is requesting that the date be changed to reflect the new event date.

**Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the amended date and time change for the previously approved short term liquor license for Drawing Board Brewing Company, LLC. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**9. REQUEST BY BLUE PAWS, INC. D/B/A JJ'S TAVERN, 99 MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, FOR A MODIFICATION TO EXISTING ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE TO INCLUDE LIVE AMPLIFIED MUSIC, ONE NIGHT PER WEEK (SUNDAY-SATURDAY) AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE NOT TO EXCEED THREE PERFORMERS AT ONE TIME.**

Jon Neumann was present and stated that the original intent behind appearing before the Commission was to request a license amendment to include live amplified music one night per week. Jon noted that he submitted a petition to the Commission showing support for Jon's request. Jon noted that he tried to make entertainment work while having the volume unplugged but it didn't work.

Commissioner Kahn asked what Jon meant about entertainment not working when the volume was unplugged.

Jon Neumann noted that an individual playing his guitar in the outdoor area was not successful as the ambient noise was drowning him out. Jon noted that he doesn't intend to be stupid and knows what the Commission wants so he'll do what he has to.

Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that the Commission will not be amending the license today because it would like to come to some type of resolution before making a decision.

**10. DISCUSSION OF ENTERTAINMENT DECIBEL LEVEL LIMITS AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE GUIDELINES**

Commissioner Yakovlev noted that she is not comfortable with setting a decibel limit and doesn't think the License Commission should be establishing decibels for noise and sound. Commissioner Yakovlev noted that she believes the City Solicitor should come to the next meeting to discuss this issue.

Commissioner Yakovlev and Commissioner Kahn both agreed to do some research on entertainment regulations and provide feedback at the December meeting.

**11. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR THE ALL ALCOHOL LIQUOR LICENSE HELD BY RIAS BAIXAS, LLC D/B/A IBIZA TAPAS**

The Commission decided that Ibiza Tapas should return its current liquor license by January 3, 2022, at which point it can apply for the surrendered license under Homestead.

The clerk will send a letter to Ibiza Tapas informing them of this decision.

**12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 6, 2021

**Commissioner Kahn moved approval of the October 6, 2021, minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

*(Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.)*

**APPLICATION FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSE**

The Academy of Music, Inc., 274 Main Street  
Date/Time: November 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Event: Warren Miller's Winter Starts Now  
Type: Wine & Malt  
Requested Fee Waiver

Melissa Cleary Pearson was present and stated that the event is the same as usual.

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the application for a short term liquor license for The Academy of Music, Inc. for November 17, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., and approved the fee waiver request. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**

**14. ADJOURN**

**Commissioner Yakovlev moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.**